



AP15:023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2015

CONTACT: Sam Mahood
(916) 653-6575

Proposed Initiative Enters Circulation

State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.

SACRAMENTO – Secretary of State Alex Padilla today announced the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponent and to the Secretary of State, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Secretary of State then provides calendar deadlines to the proponent and to county elections officials. The Attorney General's official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

STATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PURCHASES. PRICING STANDARDS. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Prohibits state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price paid for the same drug by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Applies to any program where the state is the ultimate payer for a drug, even if the state does not purchase the drug directly. Exempts certain purchases of prescription drugs funded through Medi-Cal. Fiscal impact: **It is the opinion of the Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance that the measure, if adopted, may result in a substantial net change in state or local finances.** (15-0009.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1672 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 15-0009.

The proponent for the measure, Michael Weinstein, must collect signatures of 365,880 registered voters (five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the 2014 gubernatorial election) in order to qualify it for the ballot. The proponent has 180 days to circulate petitions for the measure, meaning the signatures must be submitted to county elections officials by November 2, 2015. The proponent can be reached at (818) 593-2949.

###